



# **Lowell Public Schools**

Reimagining the Secondary  
School Experience

April 5, 2023

# LHS PORTRAIT, PROGRESS, AND PLANS

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2. Roadmap from 2021 to today
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  - b. Early college, career technical, and pathways programs
  - c. School-wide intentional practices to improve instruction and deepen engagement for students
5. Roadmap for the future
6. Reimagined school experience

# High School Redesign “North Star”

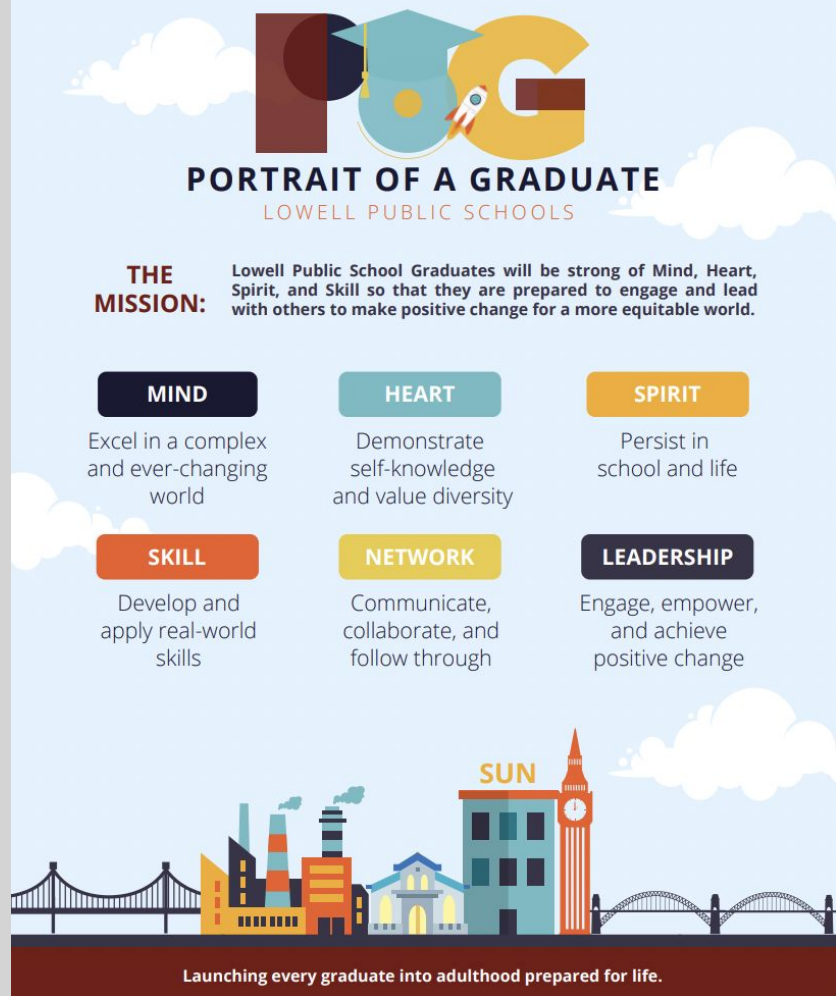
## What is Portrait of a Graduate (PoG)?

A community-driven vision for the skills and competencies that the Lowell community believes a Lowell High Graduate should possess.

## Why PoG?

Increases:

- Critical thinking opportunities
- Collaborative skills
- Student ownership over learning



# PORTRAIT OF LEARNERS AT LHS



MIND



HEART



SPIRIT



SKILL



NETWORK



LEADERSHIP

# Our Goal and Theory of Action

**LPS graduates will exhibit all of the attributes and skills in the Portrait of a Graduate so that our students are prepared to engage and lead others to make a positive change for a more equitable world.**

If Lowell High School:

- Places equity at the center of our priorities and decision-making
- Provides instruction that focuses on rigorous content and essential skills
- Expands partnerships that provide exposure to and preparation for the real world

Then Lowell High School Graduates:

- Will graduate prepared to take on ever-changing world and find post-secondary success

**"A  
vision  
without  
a plan is  
just a  
dream."**

# ROAD MAP FROM 2021 TO TODAY

Focus on improving Tier I  
instruction through  
Launch, Explore,  
Summarize

**SY  
21-22**

Update curriculum maps to  
include Portrait of a  
Graduate competencies

**SY  
21-22**

**SY  
22-23**

Implement Flex Block

**SY  
22-23**

Continued work on increasing  
access to advanced  
coursework and increased  
opportunities

**SY  
22-23**

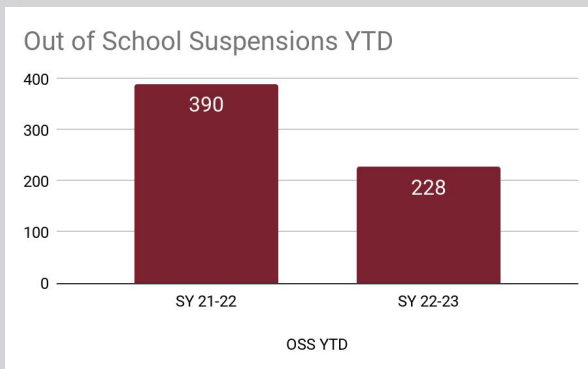
Introduce enhanced  
graduation requirements to  
incoming freshman class

**SY  
22-23**

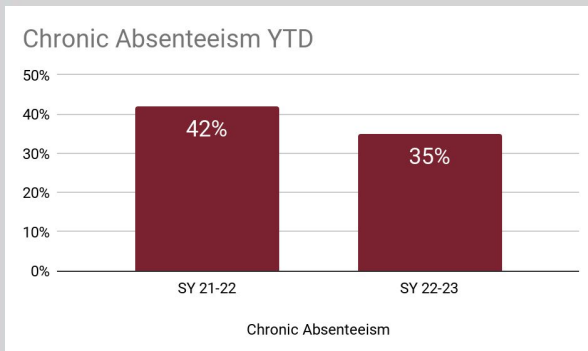
Restructuring of House Office  
teams to foster  
personalized experiences for  
students, increase instructional  
leadership across the admin team  
& increase support for teachers

Reimagined LHS

# Our Impact: Student Data Improvements



**42% decrease in  
out of school  
suspensions  
YTD**



**7% decrease in  
chronic  
absenteeism**



# Our Impact: Student Data Improvements

## Grade Nine Course Passing (2021-2022)

- **47.2% Passing All Courses**
  - SWD- 38.2%
  - Hispanic- 33.3%
  - ELL- 33.5%

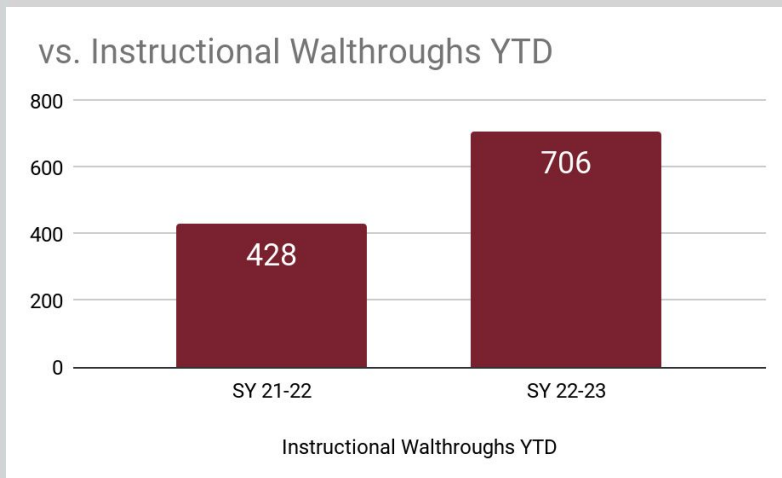
## Grade Nine Course Passing End of S1 (2022-2023)

- **62.7% Passing All Courses**
  - SWD- 50.3%
  - Hispanic- 53.9%
  - ELL- 49.8%





# Our Impact: Instructional Coherence



**65% increase from 2021-2022 to  
2022-2023 in instructional  
walkthroughs YTD**

LHS Instructional Look Fors & Reflective Tool <i>Did I?</i>	
Opening	Yes/No/NA
...Greet students at the door?	
...Remind students of established routines at the start of class?	
...Post & clearly communicate the daily objective - what students will learn and how they will learn it?	
Objectives	Yes/No/NA
...Align my objectives to appropriate grade level standards and the course curriculum map?	
...Include the "what": concepts, information, skills and/or procedure students should understand and apply as a result of this day's lesson?	
...Include the "how": Use language that precisely describes how students will demonstrate what they learn in some observable, measurable, purposeful manner?	
Launch	Yes/No/NA
...Activate, assess and build students' background knowledge? -OR- ...Generate curiosity and questions about today's content?	
...Make explicit connections between previous learning and new learning - why are students learning what they are learning?	
...Introduce any new vocabulary that students must understand in order to proceed?	

**Portion of the LHS Walkthrough Tool**

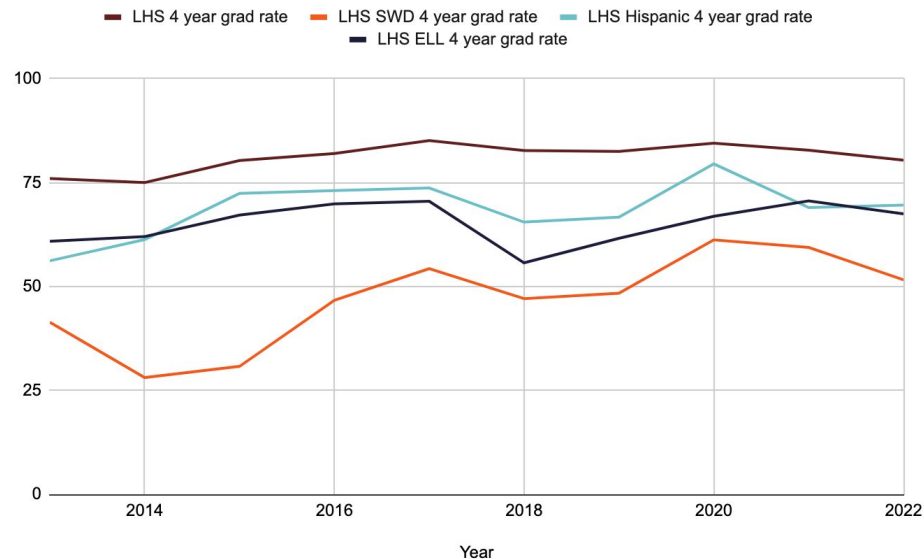
# Opportunities for Growth: Graduation Rates

Raise graduation rates and address gaps in high school completion

- **2022 4-year grad rate - 80.4% with significantly lower rates for:**
  - SWD- 51.6%
  - Hispanics- 69.6%
  - ELLs- 67.5%



Lowell High School Graduation Rates by Year



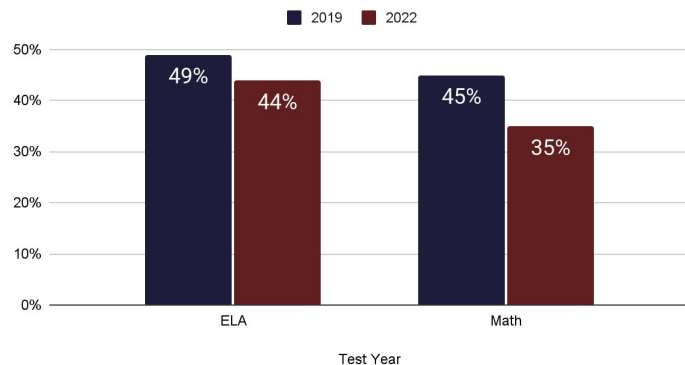
# Opportunities for Growth- MCAS Performance

## 2022 MCAS Data

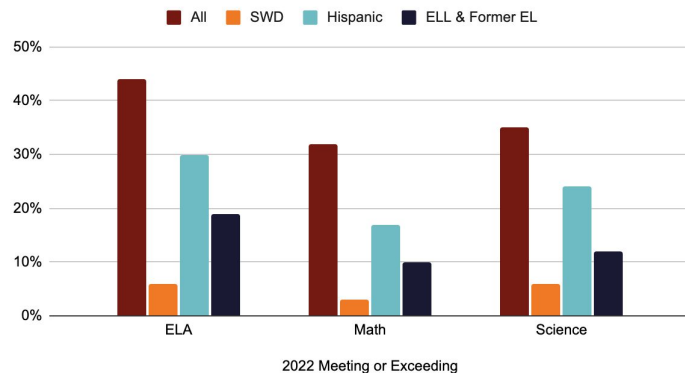
- **44% Meeting or Exceeding in ELA**
  - SWD- 6%
  - Hispanic-30%
  - ELL & Former EL- 19%
- **32% Meeting or Exceeding in Math**
  - SWD- 3%
  - Hispanic- 17%
  - ELL & Former EL- 10%
- **35% Meeting or Exceeding in Science**
  - SWD- 6%
  - Hispanic- 24%
  - ELL & Former EL- 12%

\*Note: 2019 Science MCAS test was Legacy, 2022 NextGen

ELA and Math % of Students Meeting or Exceeding



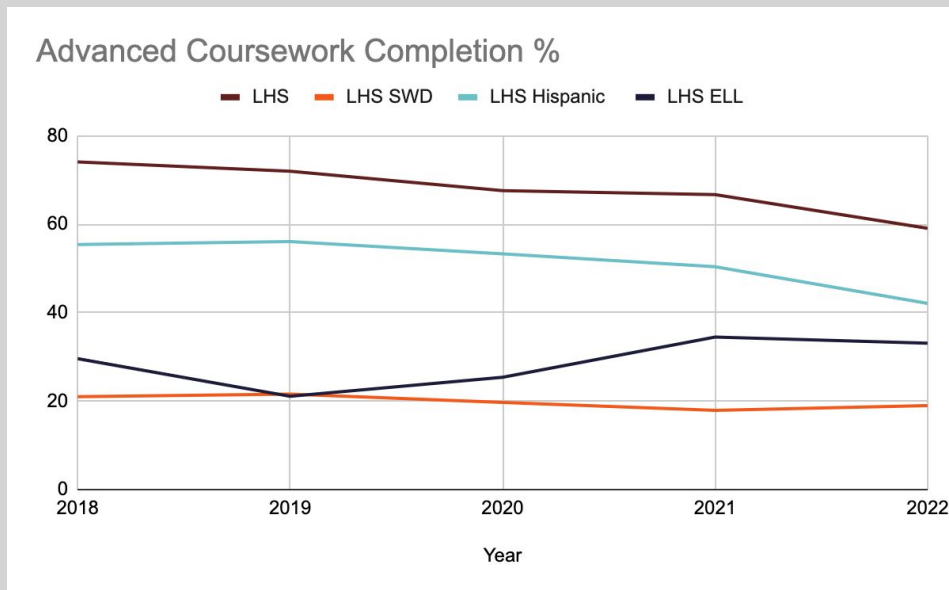
ELA, Math and Science



# Opportunities for Growth: Advanced Coursework Participation

**59.1% of students completed advanced coursework in 2021-2022**

- SWD- 19.0%
- Hispanic- 42.1%
- ELLs- 33.1%



# Opportunities for Growth: Advanced Coursework Participation

## Focus Group Themes

- Students of color experience additional challenges related to enrolling in and successfully completing advanced courses.
- Students do not all have the same access to information about why advanced courses could be helpful and perceive these courses only help students going to college.
- Information varies across the district and is often teacher-dependent or limited to students who are already enrolled in advanced courses.



*Students Making Change helped participate in these focus groups*

# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS: RAISING THE STANDARD

## MASS CORE REQUIREMENTS

**SOCIAL STUDIES**  
3 years

**SCIENCE**  
3 years

**MATHEMATICS**  
4 years  
Including Algebra 2

**ARTS**  
1 year

**WORLD LANGUAGE**  
2 years

CLASS OF 26

CLASS OF 27

CLASS OF 28

CLASS OF 29

## LOWELL HS CREDITS

1+ SS  
1+ Lab Science  
1+Mathematics (not Algebra 2)  
Additional Fine Arts Offerings

1+ SS  
1+ Lab Science  
1+Mathematics (not Algebra 2)  
Additional Fine Arts Offerings

3 SS  
3 Lab Science  
3 Mathematics (Algebra 2)  
1+ Fine Arts & Flexible Pathways

3 SS  
3 Lab Science  
3 Mathematics (Algebra 2)  
1+ Fine Arts  
1+Senior Seminar/PoG  
Performance Assessment

# A SEAL FOR MORE OPPORTUNITY

**SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023→ INTRODUCTION OF SEAL OF  
BILITERACY PROGRAM AT LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL**



## **Benefits of the Seal of Biliteracy:**

- Job opportunities
- Increase student self-efficacy
- Opportunity to place into more advanced language courses at the university level

# PREPARING STUDENTS TO THRIVE IN THE WORKFORCE

## Partnership Pathways



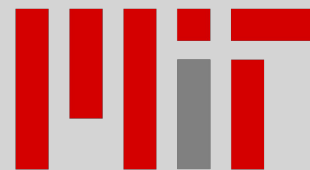
### After Dark

- Information Technology
- Automotive Technology
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Metal Fabrication / Welding (new Fall 2023)

169 Career Certifications and Credentials Earned in SY 21-22

33 Students Enrolled for SY 22-23, a 6.5% Increase from SY 21-22

## Student Success Story



**Massachusetts  
Institute of  
Technology**



Kenneth Chap, LHS Class of 2023



# PREPARING STUDENTS TO THRIVE



Since 2019, 4011 students have earned  
9806 credits, saving \$2,471,112.



# PROMISE OF A BETTER FUTURE

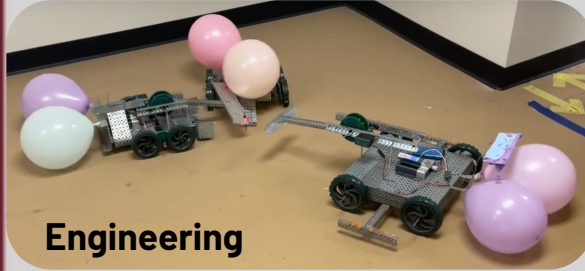


## Early College Promise

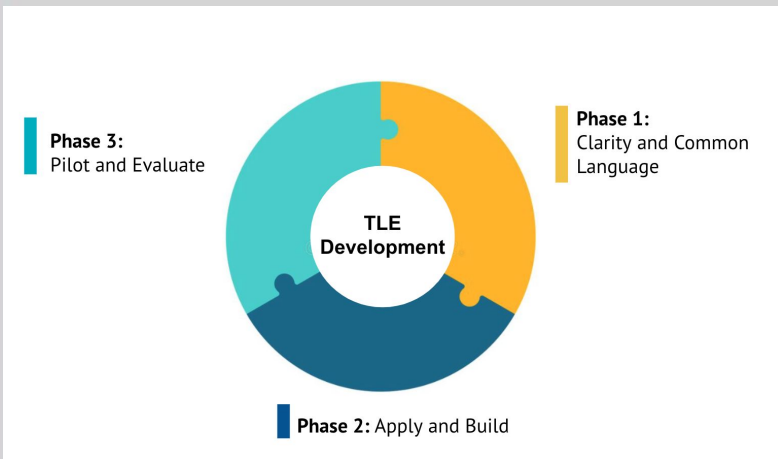




# DESIGNING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE



# NEW: TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES



T	Transformative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- something within shifts, evolves, deepens</li> <li>- knowledge of the outside world changes, evolves</li> <li>- beyond the textbook and test, "skin in the game"</li> </ul>
L	Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- deeper, more meaningful learning, really matters</li> <li>- more nuanced, complex understandings</li> <li>- agency, healthy/positive scholar identity</li> </ul>
E	Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- learning with mind + heart + body</li> <li>- activate more than the academic brain</li> <li>- makes a lasting impression, "own the learning"</li> </ul>

**My POV - Identity**  
David Afflick • Nov 14, 2022 (Edited Nov 15, 2022)  
50 points Due Nov 16, 2022

Objective- Overview of MyPOV- Brainstorming  
**TLE Driving Questions:**

- Who am I? How did I get to be me?
- What do I care about? What can I contribute?
- How can I share my story with the world?

**Today's Questions:**

- What are the different ways we can define the word identity? What does it actually mean?
- What are my most important values? What does that reveal about my identity?

**Objectives:**

- Students will be able to reflect on their individual values based on their responses / reactions to various scenarios.
- I DARE you to SHARE with Class. Do something different!!! Carpe Diem!

**Connection to the TLE and previous lessons:**

My Point of View- English



Henrietta Lacks in Genetics- Science



Diverse Voices in Literature- English

# TEACHER TESTIMONIALS

## Interview Questions:

What do TLEs mean for teachers and students?

What impact have TLEs had on planning, instruction, and student engagement?



Dr. Deanna Stanford

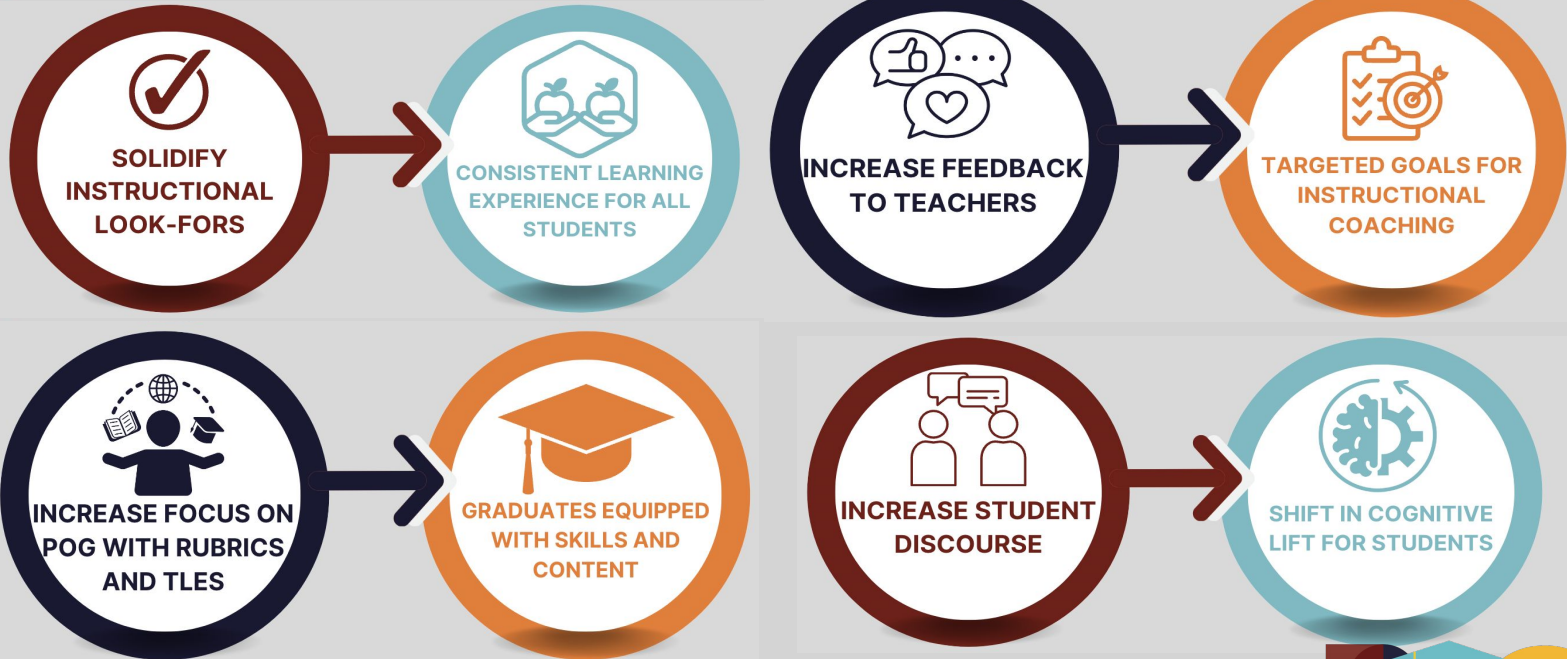


Emily Steinberg



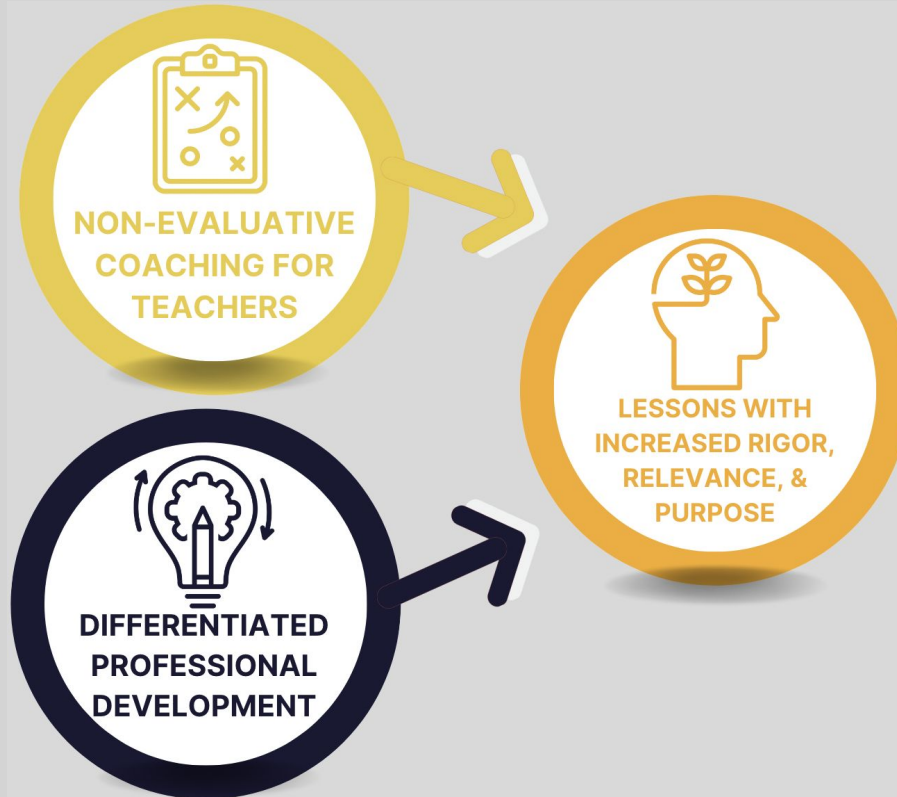
# INTENTIONAL PRACTICES FOR IMPROVING INSTRUCTION AND ENGAGED LEARNING

Work in 22-23:



# INTENTIONAL PRACTICES FOR IMPROVING INSTRUCTION AND ENGAGED LEARNING

Work to be done in 23-24:



# ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE

Implement PoG Success Criteria as Graduation Requirement

Pilot Personalized Learning Models

**DESTINATION:**  
**Reimagined LHS**

Increase # of TLEs and Opportunities for Deeper Learning

Revisit Primary Person Model and Tiered Interventions

Reexamine master schedule

Pilot PoG Domain Rubrics

Increased Support of High Needs students: Ninth grade repeaters, special populations, multi-language learners

**SY**  
**23-24**

**SY**  
**26-27**

**SY**  
**27-28**

Full Implementation of PoG and Senior Success Criteria

**SY**  
**25-26**

**SY**  
**24-25**

Implement a Primary Person Model

Develop PoG Success Criteria/ Portfolio

Develop Stronger Models to better Personalize Student Learning

Pilot PoG Success Criteria  
Strengthen Systems for Personalized Learning and Flexible Pathways

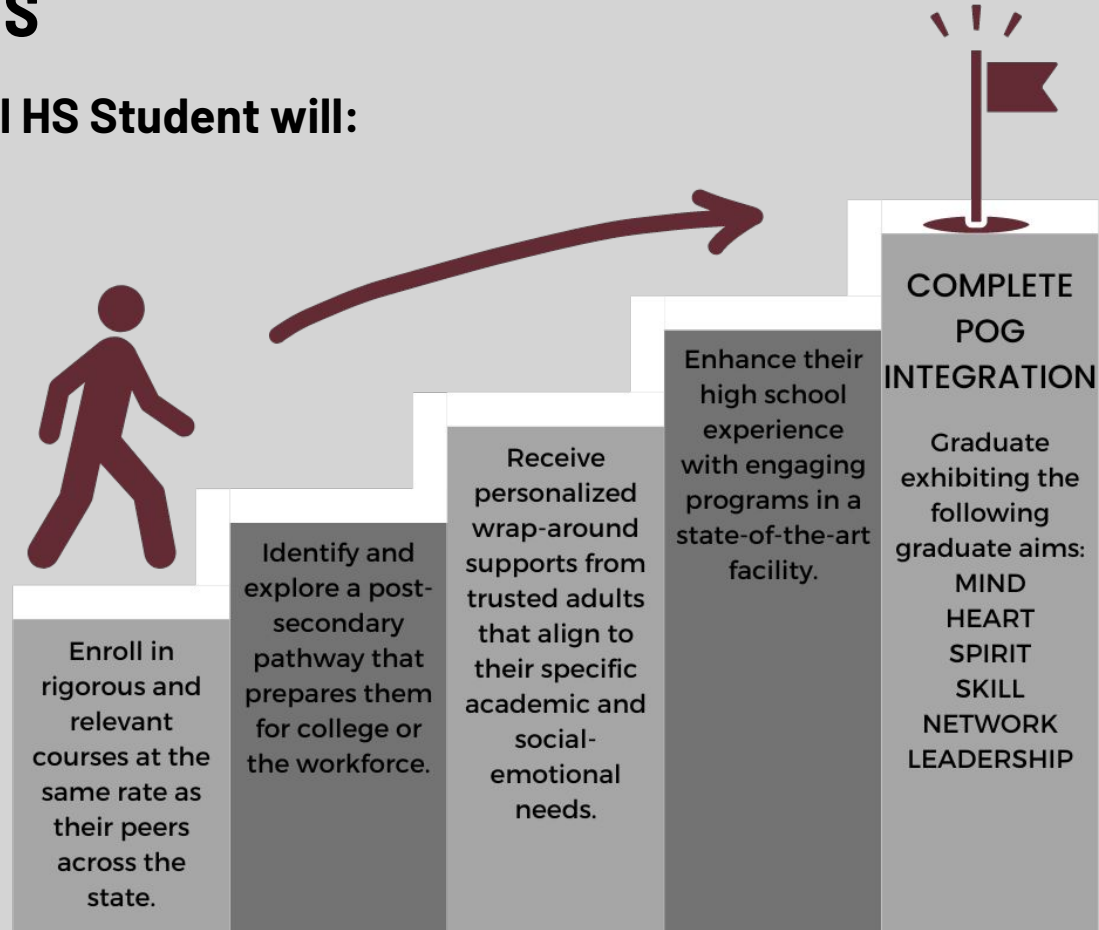


PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE  
LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS



# CLIMBING THE STAIRWAY TO SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS

Every Lowell HS Student will:



# A REIMAGINED SCHOOL EXPERIENCE



**Completion of Physical Redesign: Coming in Summer 2026**